
From: PublicAffairs
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 9:43 AM
Subject: Message from Mayor Dyer | Healthcare Update

TO: CITY OF FRESNO EMPLOYEES

In late January and again in early March 2026, messages were sent to City of Fresno employees from the Fresno City Employees Health & Welfare Trust (Trust) regarding ongoing contract disputes between Community Health Systems and Blue Shield of California. Weeks later, negotiations between the two parties continue, while City employees are the ones being negatively affected.

The purpose of this message to City employees is to share that I have gotten involved directly, in hopes of ensuring a reasonable agreement is reached as quickly as possible. My intent is to ensure that any resolution is retroactive, provides multiple years of certainty, and minimizes increased costs to the City Trust/employees.

In addition to meeting with City labor leaders, I have also met with representatives from Blue Shield of California, including their Vice President of State Government Affairs, and their Senior Vice President for Provider Partnerships and Network Management, as well as the CEO of Community Health Systems.

I am pleased to say that following my meeting with Blue Shield, they issued correspondence clarifying the Trust's rights and obligations on two topics that I understand have been negatively affecting employees/families, as outlined below:

(1) Out-Of-Network Services: Correct information was provided stating that claims will be paid by Personify directly to providers.

(2) Continuity of Care: Correct information was provided stating that the Trust complies with applicable laws and that claims for covered services will be processed by Personify directly to the provider under the same terms that were applicable prior to the contract termination.

It is my expectation that once these corrections are fully distributed and understood by all relevant parties, the scheduling of appointments for our employees will once again be handled promptly and appropriately.

I also think it is important to mention that I am following up with a letter to each party asking that they return to the bargaining table in an effort quickly resolve negotiations. I am confident once they receive these letters, they will resume negotiations, as both Community Health Systems and Blue Shield have expressed an interest to do so.

In closing, please know that I recognize this situation has created stress and uncertainty for many of our employees and their families when it comes to accessing healthcare — and that is not something I am willing to accept. While this dispute originated outside of the City's control, the impact on our workforce is very much my concern. You deserve reliable access to quality healthcare, and reaching a swift resolution remains a top priority for my Administration.

Sincerely,

Jerry P. Dyer Mayor